

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES
January 11, 2005

The regular meeting of the Geauga Park District Board was held on January 11, 2005 at the Park District office, Chardon, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. President Robert McCullough was in the chair. Board members Betty Cope and Mark Rzeszotarski were present.

Employees present were:

Tom Curtin	Executive Director
Keith McClintock	Deputy Director
Leslie Bednar	Development Officer
Sherry Bosworth	Business Affairs Director
Barb Emch	Executive Secretary
Mike Fabian	Lt. Ranger
Joel Firem	Ranger
Kathy Henning	Ranger
Paige Hosier	Marketing Director
Michele Pennell	Accountant
Robin Pilarczyk	Human Resource Manager
Dick Sherwood	Ranger Consultant
Eileen Smith	Administrative Assistant
Vince Valerio	Ranger

Guests present were:

Richard Fabian
Joyce Fabian
Terri Fabian
From Chagrin River Land Conservancy:
Dick Grimm
Ed Meyers
Mark Skowronski

Gauga Park District Foundation Representative was Dan Groth

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER

In the matter of the Appointment of a)	JUDGE CHARLES E. HENRY
Park Board Member to the)	
Geauga Park District)	JOURNAL ENTRY

On the 29th Day of December, 2004 the Court reappoints Robert McCullough to a three year term on the Geauga County Park District Board of Commissioners commencing January 1, 2005 and ending on December 31, 2007.

Before entering upon the performance of his duties, said Commissioner shall take an oath to faithfully perform his duties of office and shall post bond for the faithful performance of the duties of office in a sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Such bond shall be approved and filed with the auditor of Geauga County.

The Commissioner herein appointed shall serve without commission, but shall be allowed actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties. This appointment is made in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.05.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

CHARLES E. HENRY, PROBATE JUDGE
December 27, 2004

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Robert McCullough relinquished the chair to Tom Curtin for the purpose of conducting the election of officers.

For the Office of President:

Miss Cope moved to nominate Mr. McCullough for the Office of President. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the chair declared the nominations closed. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to nominate Miss Cope for the Office of Vice President. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the chair declared the nominations closed. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to accept the agenda as revised for the meeting. Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2004

Miss Cope moved that the minutes of December 14, 2004, be approved as amended. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE MONTH ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2004

GENERAL FUND		
BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2004		1,123,280.72
EXPENDITURES		270,051.47
Personnel	144,638.77	
Medicare	1,694.41	
Dental /Hospitalization	27,191.35	
PERS	19,868.32	
Unemployment Transfers	798.00	
Vouchers	75,860.62	
RECEIPTS		14,917.14
Fees:		

Out of County School Program Fees	578.00	
- Camping	20.00	
- Bass Lake Heat	80.00	
- Rookery Heat	275.00	
Workshops - Greens	111.00	
- Programs - General	64.00	
Rental Properties		
- Harry- Swine Creek house	350.00	
- Kolar - Burton Wetlands House	350.00	
- McKinnon - Hyde House	350.00	
Sales:		
Sales: Gift Cart - Meyer Center	539.44	
Sales: Tree Tops	2,198.24	
Sales - Credit Cards	1,900.00	
(\$168.25 - Meyer Center, \$1,731.75 - Tree Tops)		
Other:		
Citation Disbursement	110.00	
Donations:	480.00	
- In Memory of Kenneth Kinder (\$230)		
- Lubrizol Foundation Matching Gift (\$250)		
Local Government Funds	5,666.90	
Interest earned	1,088.99	
BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004		868,146.39
CONSTRUCTION FUND		
BALANCE DECEMBER 1, 2004		2,175,220.66
EXPENDITURES		187,655.63
Vouchers	187,655.63	
RECEIPTS		4,283.86
Interest Earned	3,144.07	
Other	90.53	
- Geauga Clerk of Courts Return Filing Deposit - Richmond, Koth, Moon		
Royalties: Oxford Oil Co	317.89	
BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004		1,991,848.89

VOUCHER RESOLUTION NO. 01-05

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved the adoption of the voucher resolution, a copy of which is on file in the Park District office, so marked Resolution No. 01-05.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Miss Cope thanked the staff for the meaningful birthday card she received.

Dr. Rzeszotarski heard positive comments from several people regarding the *Engage the Ice Age!* segments broadcast on WKYC TV 3 on Saturday, January 8, 2005. He felt that Miriam Osredkar, Naturalist, did an outstanding job with the on-air segments.

Mr. McCullough reported that a patron from Oregon heard about the *Engage the Ice Age!* exhibit from a PBS radio station via the internet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition at 3:50 p.m.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

The Board returned from Executive Session at 4:30 p.m.

BALLASH PRESS, INC. – MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

Ms. Hosier presented the need for the modification of the contract with Ballash Press, Inc. In October the Board voted to enter into a contract for the printing and mailing services for the *Treeline Telegraph* in the amount of Twenty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$26,898.00). This amount was for the base bid for printing only. It did not include mailing services and contingencies. Ms. Hosier asked the Board for a motion to revise the contract amount to Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$33,618.00).

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve the contract for Ballash Press, Inc. in the amount of Thirty-Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$33,618.00).

Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

This amount would be reflected in the 2005 budget.

RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION NOS. 38-04, 39-04, AND 40-04 FOR ICE AGE ARTISTS

Mr. Curtin asked the Board members to sign Resolutions of Appreciation No. 38-04, 39-04, and 40-04 which were approved at their meeting on December 14, 2004. These resolutions served to thank the artists, craftsmen, and staff who created the *Engage the Ice Age!* exhibit, William and Carol Prior, Terrence Orvis, and Christopher Freno.

PARK UPDATES

Mr. Curtin updated the Board on the following:

Green Roof at The West Woods

Mr. Curtin reported that we will be working with one vendor in 2005 to supplement the existing 14 species of plants. All 14 species continue to survive, some better than others. We observe that there are three somewhat different flowering cycles as determined by the effects of the sun, wind and surrounding vegetation on the particular area of the roof. The roof continues to function as expected slowing the run off. The challenge is that the run off is enriched in nutrients. We will continue to monitor to see if there is an impact.

Rail Trail Effort

Mr. Curtin presented information obtained at a recent meeting regarding the use of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad right-of-way. The line in reference runs out of Portage County and passes Geauga Lake into Cuyahoga County. Twenty organizations are involved in this project, such as the planning commissions of Solon and Aurora. Congressman Tim Ryan reviewed a presentation showing the maps and history of what could become the Western Reserve Heritage Trail and would tie in with other trails. Congressman Ryan is interested in initiatives that will enhance the cultural and historical efforts in his district. We will join in asking Congressman LaTourette to approach the Norfolk and Southern Railroad about this project. This rail line is approximately 72 miles long and half of it is not used or does not even have tracks. About ten miles of this line is currently used as a trail through Portage County. Approximately 492,000 people live within two miles of this corridor and one million people live within five miles so the use of this line as a trail would make a huge impact. Mr. Curtin stated that the next step would be to ask Congressman LaTourette to review the presentation.

Ohio Division of Wildlife Grant

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that Geauga Park District will be receiving a reimbursement grant from the Division of Wildlife through the Pastures to Prairies program for Frohring Meadows in the amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00).

Affelder Cottage Improvements

Mr. Curtin reported that ANS Communications will be installing the components required to return phone service to the cottage during the week of January 16, 2005. The security system will then be installed.

The Maple Highlands Trail-North – Spur Parking Area

Mr. Curtin reported that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) completed the final tally for the project completed in September. Geauga Park District will have a return of Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$19,200.53) from the escrow account.

The Maple Highlands Trail-Central

Mr. Curtin stated that Soda Construction has commenced field work with surveying of the construction limits. He is talking with the City of Chardon regarding reducing the Aquilla Road closure time for the demolition and construction of the bikeway bridge. The storm water management plans are being prepared by CTL Engineering of West Virginia.

The West Woods Nature Center

Electrical circuits for the heat cables and ventilators have been completed. Installation of the cables has been delayed by the weather.

Big Creek Shop and Ranger Garage

Mr. Curtin reported that the gutters have been replaced on the Ranger vehicle garage located at the Big Creek shop. The original gutters were damaged due to the under-designed support components by the metal building supplier. A follow-up claim will be made to the contractor's surety. Roof vents will be installed on the shop when the cost is determined.

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Awards

Keith McClintock reported on the awards that Geauga Park District received from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association.

Park Area Development Category - Honorable Mention for the Tare Creek Covered Bridge
Natural Resources Mgt. Category – Outstanding- Top Award- for the Silver Creek Project
Park Programs Category - Honorable Mention for the Nature Scopes Binocular Program

The Maple Highlands Trail- Central Parking Area

Mr. Curtin reported that there will be drive up access to the picnic area.

Navigational Aids Grant

Mr. Curtin informed the Board that the Navigational Aids grant was approved through the Ohio Division of Watercraft. The Ohio Division of Watercraft will purchase the buoys for use by GPD at Headwaters Park.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF RANGER RESOLUTION NO. 02-05

Mr. McCullough made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that as Mike Fabian had been appointed as Acting Chief Ranger of Geauga Park District on November 10, 2003, and that he now be appointed as Chief Ranger of Geauga Park District, and

RESOLVED, that this appointment be effective January 11, 2005.

Miss Cope seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Mr. Curtin administered the oath of office to Chief Ranger Fabian. In attendance were his family and members of the Ranger Department. Chief Fabian thanked the Board for the opportunities that Geauga Park District has given him since he started in 1991 and for the opportunity to work with good people.

MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY- REVIEW

Mr. Curtin presented the current Mission Statement and Philosophy and opened the discussion of the documents. Dr. Rzeszotarski questioned the phrase in the Philosophy, "the best small park district in Ohio", as to the reference of being small. Miss Cope asked how we compare with respect to other park districts. Mr. Curtin stated that he would find out that information from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association statistics. He stated that Franklin County is the largest in terms of acres but Hamilton County has the largest budget. It was decided to strike the word "small" from the above phrase. The term "non-consumptive trail oriented activities" was questioned for meaning and clarification. It was decided that the wording would be changed to read "passive trail oriented activities". It was also decided to remove the word "the" before Geauga Park District in all cases within the documents.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the Mission Statement and Philosophy with the above-stated changes.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

The documents as approved by the Board are as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide the opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate these resources.

PHILOSOPHY

Geauga Park District was created for the purpose of conserving natural resources. The parks are usually large undeveloped tracts of land devoted to conserving and preserving the forests, grasslands, wetlands, geological features, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, and the plants and animals associated therewith. Prime consideration is given to protecting the natural aesthetic values and scenic landscapes. Only a small percentage of the area is physically developed and then only when this is not in conflict with the objectives of protection and conservation.

Developments in the parks provide the opportunity to use and enjoy the natural resources without diminishing their quality for future visitors. Recreation is primarily limited to passive trail oriented activities. Most developments should provide an opportunity to learn more about the parks and their plant and animal life and other natural features.

Programs are offered to increase the public’s knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of Geauga County. Programs may be presented anywhere in the county but will usually be scheduled in the parks.

Geauga Park District strives to maintain clean, safe parks which are enjoyable to visit and which protect valuable natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. We believe that we are, and we intend to remain, “the best park district in Ohio”.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Curtin reported that the State Auditor requires a motion of appointment of legal counsel each year. He recommended that the Board appoint the firms Thrasher, Dinsmore, & Dolan and Blaugrund, Herbert, & Martin as legal counsels for Geauga Park District.

Mr. McCullough moved to approve Thrasher, Dinsmore, & Dolan and Blaugrund, Herbert, & Martin as legal counsels for Geauga Park District.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Mr. McClintock reported that we will be seeking proposals for legal counsel later this year for services to be provided in 2006.

2005 BUDGET

Tom Curtin presented to the Board a draft of the 2005 budget for their review and comment. Miss Cope commented that the term “Natural Resources” was new. Mr. Curtin explained that this budget has been set up to conform to the restructuring of the departments reflecting the creation of the Natural Resources Department as a split from Contracts and Planning. The Board was given the opportunity to comment and have their questions answered about particular line items. The final budget will be brought to the Board at their February meeting for approval.

SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Curtin requested that the following vehicles be declared surplus property for the purpose of trading in for replacement vehicles:

- 1997 Chevrolet S-10 Pick-up Truck
- 1999 Ford Crown Victoria Sedan
- 1998 Dodge 3500 Dump Truck

Miss Cope made a motion to declare the above-stated vehicles as surplus property for the purpose of trading in for replacement vehicles.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

NEW VEHICLE PURCHASE

Mr. Curtin indicated that he was recommending the purchase of a new vehicle to replace the 1997 Dodge Neon used by the Administrative and Planning Departments. The new vehicle to be purchased from State Purchasing Bid is a 2005 Ford Taurus for the purchase price of Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars and Twenty-Four Cents (\$12,334.24). The 1997 Neon will be available for use by the Ranger Department. Mr. Curtin stated that three additional vehicles need to be purchased for the Operations and Ranger Departments for a purchase price of Eighty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Dollars and Eighty-One Cents (\$88,770.81). Three vehicles will be traded in for a total trade in value of Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$11,650.00). The total cost of the three vehicles minus the trade-in amount is Seventy Seven Thousand Twenty Dollars and Eighty-One Cents (\$77,020.81).

Mr. McCullough moved to approve the purchase of all four vehicles for the amounts stated above. Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS

Dr. Rzeszotarski asked to open a discussion regarding the list of possible research topics for this year's grants. He suggested that in addition to topics with emphasis on biology, we consider those related to the earth sciences and/or cultural history of the region as well. In keeping with the Observatory Park project, research into the history of the weather or the geology of our area would be appropriate. Mr. McCullough suggested research into the names of crossroads in our area to determine their historical significance would be of interest as well. Mr. Curtin said that he would convey these ideas to the Natural Resources Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McCullough moved to go into Executive Session at 5:20 p. m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel matters.

Dr. Rzeszotarski seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

The Board took a break from 5:30 p. m. to 5:40 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. The following was discussed for resolution:

LAND ACQUISITION

Montville Township

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for real property in Montville Township.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

Woodiebrook Preserve/Chagrin River Land Conservancy

Munson Township

Dr. Rzeszotarski moved to approve the purchase of real property in Munson Township adjacent to the Woodiebrook Preserve and owned by the Chagrin River Land Conservancy, containing approximately 3.0 acres, for the purchase price of Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) contingent upon a satisfactory purchase agreement.

Mr. McCullough seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Dr. Rzeszotarski	Yes
Miss Cope	Yes
Mr. McCullough	Yes

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Departmental reports from the Supervisors were submitted for the month of December to the Executive Director and a summary sheet was forwarded to the Board in their packets prior to the Board meeting. Several annual departmental reports were also submitted to the Board for their review. The Board had an opportunity to have their questions answered and make comments regarding the reports.

Paige Hosier informed the Board that she received a call from Jeff Frischkorn of The News Herald newspaper. He was asking for a comment regarding the recent passage of a bill and signed by Governor Taft which will allow for five member boards for park districts. The consensus of the Board members was that the issue would need to be studied further before any comment could be made.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE

The rules of the Park Board were complied with by sending notice pursuant to the rules adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Curtin, Executive Director

Robert McCullough, President